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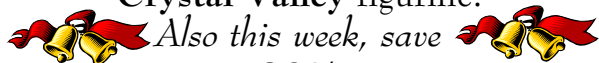
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Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1997

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Grant Township board OKs increased one year fire levy

Rural Grant Township will pay more next year for fire protection.

In a 4-1 vote, Grant Township trustees on Monday approved a request from the city of Hoopeston that will raise the rural fire protection levy from its current rate of .0594 to .1025 per \$100 assessed valuation.

Trustee Bill Boose was the sole dissenting vote. Trustees Connie Wilson, Dale Lithgow and Steve Willard and township supervisor Carol Flint voted for the higher rate.

The increase, payable in 1998, means taxes on a \$60,000 home will jump from \$11.88 to approximately \$20, Flint said.

The increase, requested by Hoopeston officials last month, will offset expenses incurred by the Hoopeston Fire Department fighting rural blazes.

City officials last month submitted a five-year plan, which, if approved by the township, would raise the fire tax to approximately 20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

While Hoopeston fire officials are thinking long-term, township officials say the increase may only last one year.

New Chamber board announced

Dave McFadden of Read Buick, Pontiac, Olds, Chevrolet will lead the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce in 1998.

The announcement was made at Monday's Community Involvement Committee meeting.

Other officers for 1998 are Tracy Brown, secretary and Charlie Smith, treasurer.

A new vice president will be chosen after new board members are elected later this month, said Chamber executive secretary Judy Benjamin.

Township officials had to decide the issue this month and by passing the new levy, have given themselves one year to find alternatives.

"If we do this, we've got 12 months to seriously, seriously look at other options," said Wilson before making a motion to approve the increase.

Options discussed include a special service district, keeping the existing rate but adding a per-use fee for rural fires and not signing a contract with the city.

Under a special service district, a tax, probably higher than that requested, would still have to be paid. If the township does not sign an agreement with the city, the rural portion would be placed in an existing fire protection district, probably Bismarck, which has a higher tax rate.

The per-use fee, and other alternatives, will be discussed at future meetings.

Santa to visit downtown shops, shopping hours extended

Santa will be visiting downtown merchants in Hoopeston for the next two Saturdays.

This Saturday, Santa will be at Weber's from 102 p.m. and Countryside from 2-3 p.m.

On Dec. 20, Santa will be at the Resale Mart from 10-11 a.m. and Brianna's Baby Shop from 11 a.m. until noon.

Downtown merchants have also extended shopping hours during the Christmas season.

Most businesses will be open Monday through



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Court Dispositions

Nov. 20: **Jonathan Miles**, Hoopeston, to pay, continued to Jan. 22, 1998; battery, pleaded guilty, \$100.

Heather Malley, St. Joseph, two counts deceptive practice; summons issued.

Daniel O'Neal, Hoopeston, disorderly conduct; summons issued.

Lori Pickett, Hoopeston, two counts deceptive practice; \$90.

Denise Powell, Hoopeston, to pay; continued to Dec. 18.

Donna Marie Powers, Hoopeston, deceptive practice; summons issued.

Charles Richardson, Hoopeston, to do 52 hours public service work; continued to Dec. 18.

Mary Beth Runge, Mahomet, three counts deceptive practice; summons issued.

Jesusa Salinas, Hoopeston, to pay; failed to appear.

Edward Schultz, Bradley, two counts deceptive practice, pleaded guilty; \$90, restitution.

Cathy Smith, Hoopeston, to pay; continued to Jan. 8, 1998.

David Snowburger, Monon, Ind., deceptive practice; summons issued.

Robert Stevens, Danville, to pay; continued to Dec. 18.

Amanda Strawser, Hoopeston, to pay or complete public service work; found in contempt of court.

Joseph Thrasher, Hoopeston, paid \$75 in full.

Tammy Thrasher, Hoopeston, paid \$35 in full.

Mark Tovey, Hoopeston, inoperable vehicle, pleaded guilty; \$75.

Jackie Trautvetter, Hoopeston, to pay \$75;

continued to Dec. 4.

Jason Traylor, Danville, to pay \$100; continued for balance.

Penny Warner, Hoopeston, disorderly conduct, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Bench trials: **Gary Buhrmester**, Watseka, deceptive practice, pleaded guilty; \$50, restitution.

Juan Colunga, battery, pleaded guilty; \$200, costs.

Harold Cox, Hoopeston, nuisance weeds; nolle pros.

Regina Ervin, Hoopeston, leash law, pleaded guilty; \$75.

Karen Hagele, Milford, disorderly conduct, pleaded guilty, \$75; disorderly conduct, nolle pros.

Brianne Reed, Hoopeston, loitering, pleaded guilty; \$45.

Jose Rodriguez, Hoopeston, nuisance/junk car, pleaded guilty; \$75.

Jackie Trautvetter, Hoopeston, cruelty, failure to inoculate, license required; bench trial Dec. 4.

Robert Glenn, Hoopeston, speeding, pleaded guilty, \$100; speeding, nolle pros.

Obituaries

MILLER - James A. Miller, 72, of Hoopeston, died at 11:01 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 1997, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the First Christian Church. Private family burial services will be held at Fleming Cemetery near Raub, Ind. Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, with

Masonic services at 8 p.m. Memorials are suggested to the First Christian Church, 502 E. Main, Hoopeston, IL 60942 or the Diabetes Association of America, 2580 Federal Dr., Suite 430, Decatur, IL. 62526.

WONDERLIN - Bessie E. Wonderlin, 89, of Hoopeston, died at 10:40 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 1997, at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Sunset Memorial Park Chapel, Danville. There will be no visitation. Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Dec. 4, 1997

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Jose Zamarripa, Virginia Cartwright, James Ramsey.

Dec. 5, 1997

Admitted: A Chi Yu, Patricia Boyer, William Moyer, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Blanche Huber, Vera Duffin.

Dec. 6, 1997

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

Dec. 7, 1997

Admitted: none.

Discharged: A Chi Yu.

Police News

Melissa A. Hoover, 723 N. Seventh St., Apt. A, reported Monday that someone took her purse from her car. The car was parked at her home.

Weather

Cloudy today with a mixture of sleet, snow and freezing rain. High 34. Tonight, snow. Low 32. Tomorrow, cloudy with a chance of snow. High 35, low 32.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston**

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Half-price sale at Resale Mart, 227 E. Main, Hoopeston. All clothing, purses, shoes. Next bake sale, Dec. 20. For advance orders, call (217) 283-5258 or 283-7509 after 5 p.m. 338-364

HELP WANTED

Bartender, Hoopeston American Legion. Will start after Jan. 1. Approximately 15-20 hours/week. Apply in person.

HOMES FOR RENT

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